

GIDEON...THE ALTAR AND THE GROVES (PART 2)

Judges 6

Response: If Jehovah is with us then why is this happening and where are your miracles?

Point: I can't live on miracles you did for my fathers.

I need your power in my life, now!

Response of Angel: You've been using your abilities and strengths to thresh wheat. Go and use your strength for a better purpose.

Judges 6:14 Gideon's response: I'm a nobody.

God's response in v.16: *Surely I will be with thee*

Gideon's response in v.17 *show me a sign*

Judges 6:18-19 Gesture of hospitality.

Unleavened cakes may be connection to meat offering (Gen 19:3; 18:6; Exo 16:16).

Presented it: word used for making an offering to God (Amos 5:25)

Judges 6:20 *Pour out the broth*—Pouring of broth upon rock may be type of libation offering.

Judges 6:21 Proof of God's presence and power.

Judges 6:22-23 If person saw God--have to die.

Judges 6:24 Gideon convinced!

Builds altar unto Lord.

J. Sidlow Baxter: transformation came in 3 stages:

1. Angel said, *The Lord is with thee*. Gideon's response, *where is His power?*

2. Angel burns meat offering.

3. Gideon builds altar. Place where God and man meet.

When Gideon built that altar to Jehovah, he made a clean break with the past, turned his back upon false gods, and became a worshipper of the one true God. His response proves this.

Judges 6:24 *Shalom*: peace.

For the first time in his life Gideon came into a sense of peace.

Any time a person is in fellowship with God he will experience peace.

Romans 8:6; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; Isaiah 26:3 John 14:27;

Philippians 4:6-7

After salvation, most important question--will I yield all?

In a sense, man is converted when he acknowledges the altar

Next act of faith--when he builds an altar and gets up on it! Romans 12:1-2

Deliverance began, as deliverance does, by a cleansing act and a movement of consecration.

Gideon's commitment --soon tested.

Judges 6:25-26 *Grove*: images of Ashtoreth

Compassion deity to Baal

Goddess of war and fertility (immorality).

Carved in trees, as well as idols of wood.

Canopy or tent --woven by women.

God asking Gideon to do something which went against peers

Cause is life to be in jeopardy.

Judges 6:27 Every time we make a commitment to God, God turns us toward the idols and tells us to start chopping.

Judges 6:28-30 People didn't appreciate his stand.

When we cut down groves of sin, religious people not always appreciate us.

Gideon's father steps forth and speaks to angry mob.

Judges 6:31 If Baal can't defend himself then surely can't defend anyone else.

And if can't defend himself then not worth defending.

Baxter: Maybe the old man had secretly signed for the good old days, and had longed that some brave champion of the old time faith might arise to call his fellow countrymen back to Jehovah.

A son who's godly living and boldness influenced his father!

Gideon given a new name.

Judges 6:32 *Jerubbaal*-- let Baal defend... because he tore down Baal's altar

Conversion of Gideon -- builds altar

Consecration of Gideon -- Yields himself to Jehovah.

Proving ground of Gideon -- cuts down idols and groves.

Control of Gideon. Came under control of Holy Spirit of God.

Judges 6:33-34 Became leader and judge of Israel.

When blew trumpet--people rallied...victory over Midian...freeing of Israel from bondage.

v.34. Spirit of Lord came upon Gideon.

Came upon: clothed himself.

Brother Andrew: *Gideon opened the way by pursuing the truth, and then the Spirit of the Lord took possession of him.*

SO WHAT?

Converted? Jehovah Shalom -- come to altar

Consecrated? Gotten up on the altar

Controlled? By the Holy Spirit?